KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) There have been incidents of exchange of fire between the Indian and Pakistani troops across the Line of Control during the last six months resulting in some casualties on both the sides. It would not be in the public interest to disclose further details.

(d) The Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan have been in weekly telephonic contact with each other. The need to prevent escalation in the level of firing and tension along the Border has been emphasised by both sides.

Visit of High Level Defence Delegation to Soviet Union

1634. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level defence delegation led by Minister of State for Defence, visited Soviet Union recently, if so, the purpose of the visit and the outcome thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to export Aircrafts and Tanks produced in India under U.S.S.R. Licence; and

(c) if so, whether the permission of U.S.S.R. has sought, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) A defence delegation led by Minister of State for Defence visited Soviet Union from 7-13th August, 1991 to participate in XIX session of Joint Indo-Soviet Group on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the field of Aviation Industry. A protocol was signed incorporating the agreements reached during the discussions.

(b) and (c) An agreement had been signed with the Soviet Union on 28-9-88 for export of MiG-21 aircraft spares, accessories and engines to certain third countries. Permission for the export of other licenced products including Tanks is awaited.

Work with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

1635. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assembly lines of various H.A.L. units have little work at present; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the production of the Avro aircrafts has been stopped;

(c) if so, what is the position of Dorniers in this regard;

(d) what are the plans to keep the Assembly lines busy at HAL units;

(e) what are the proposals to use these facilities for joint production of planes for use within the country as well as for export; and

(f) what are the prospects of establishing Industry to manufacture commercial planes in India following announcement of new industrial policy and the certain spurt for the demand for Turbo Props aircraft in various parts of the World?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Some Divisions of HAL have reduced workload at present. The workload depends on the orders on hand and the recent FFE constraint has also aggravated the position.

(b) Yes, Sir.